

ACQUISITIONS DEPARTMENT

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

JUL 18 1943

MINUTES

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Meeting of 23 September 1943

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008

PRESENT:

Treasury Department
Department of Agriculture
Office of War Information
War Department
Library of Congress
State Department
Executive Secretary

Mr. Southworth
Mr. Shaw
Mr. Krould
Major Hale
Mr. Moriarty
Mr. Spaulding
Ensign Kilgour

Ensign Kilgour presided.

The minutes of the meeting of 14 September 1943 were read and approved as read.

The chair reported that he had been in error in stating at the last meeting that the increase in the cost of producing positive photostats would be 30 per cent for each set; the statement should have been that the increase would be 30 per cent no matter how many sets would be positive with one being negative.

Mr. Southworth again brought up the matter concerning the acquisition of the noon and evening editions of the Neue Zuercher Zeitung. Further discussion with the member of his agency who needed these two editions brought out the fact that they contain financial news that is not in the morning edition. The Committee decided that the noon and evening editions should be acquired by air for the Treasury Department.

The chair reported that as yet the current copies of the four Russian newspapers requested by the Committee were not being received.

The Committee inquired of the State Department representative as to what had been accomplished by the Consul General in Istanbul concerning arrangements for a traveler to pick up publications in various Balkan countries. No reports had been received.

The chair pointed out that conditions might change in Portugal and that such changes would interrupt the activities of the Committee's Outpost. The Committee decided that Mr. Carruthers should go to Madrid to lay the foundations for the possible reestablishment there of the Lisbon Outpost.

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The chair reported that a procurement objective of two commissioned officers and two technical sergeants had been requested in order to be able to send men into occupied areas to collect publications. The Committee approved this action and suggested some possible candidates for these duties.

The fact that the absence of the OEER abstracts had been felt by some agencies was brought up. The Committee felt that the indexing should be well established before a continuing program for abstracting could be considered.

The chair stated that one copy of Informator Slovenski Republiki 1942/43, Statistisk Aarvog for Kobenhavn, Frederichsberg, Gjentofte 1942, Statistisk Arsbok for Sverige 1942, and Statistisk Arsbok for Finland 1941 had been received and inquired as to whether or not photostat copies should be made. The Committee decided that ten copies of these publications should be prepared.

The discussion of sending photostats to the Food Research Institute at Stanford was continued. It was decided that it was too early to be able to tell whether or not the Subject Index is replacing the clippings supplied by the Food Research Institute so the discussion was deferred for three months.

The letter that had been received from the Library of Congress concerning the Library's program for circulating the Committee's originals was further discussed. The Library's representative agreed that the Library could deliver materials to the "Washington Area" and that it could service the materials on the deposit basis, but requested that a letter be sent from the Committee to obtain written confirmation on these two points. The Committee felt that if agreement could be reached that it would be desirable to have the Library circulate original publications for the Committee.

Corporal Clift's rank was discussed and the Committee inquired as to what had happened concerning the request for a commission for Corporal Clift. The chair reported that changes in War Department regulations had made it very difficult to obtain a commission for Clift. Mr. Shaw moved that the Committee request of OSS that immediate and effective action be taken to procure a commission for Corporal Clift. Dr. Krould seconded the motion. The question was put to vote and unanimously approved.

The draft status of Mr. Kwang Lien Lee, the Head of the Oriental Index Unit, was discussed in the light of Mr. Lee's imminent induction. The Committee members were of different opinions as to whether a deferment should be requested for Mr. Lee, but decided that a deferment should not be asked for and that Mr. Lee's assignment to duty with the Subject Indexing Section should be requested of the Army at the time of his induction.